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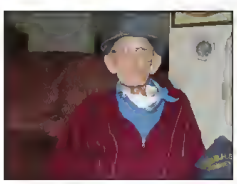

Dedication to youth sports honoured in Fort Erie

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Boxes for beautification

KRIS DUBÉ Fort Erie Times

As local residents get ready to start their gardens fresh this season, Patty Mountain, left, and Vivianne Cooney from the Ridgeway Business Improvement Association (BIA) are hoping people will stop by Ditsch's Greenhouses. The local business and the BIA have partnered for an initiative that will support beautification efforts in downtown Ridgeway. Boxes will be placed at various businesses, where gardeners and homeowners are encouraged to drop off receipts and at the end of the month, Ditsch's Greenhouses will contribute 10 per cent of the sale shown on all the receipts.

Early start on campaign trail

PC candidate Bart Maves hears concerns door to door

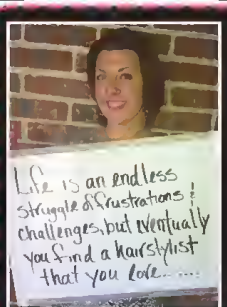
Kris Dubé
Editor

Even though a date has not been set for an potential provincial election, one candidate decided to get a head-start and hear what people had to say about local issues last weekend.

Bart Maves is the Progressive Conservative candidate for the Niagara Falls riding and he spent last Saturday morning and afternoon, visiting residents in the Crescent Park area of Fort Erie to gauge what concerns voters might take with them to the polls if and when an election is scheduled.

First and foremost, Maves said the majority of the conversations he had when greeting residents focused on a struggling Niagara economy and how they would like to see it rejuvenated.

See Page 2



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Maves says Liberals have hurt business with too much red tape

From Page 1

"We've suffered over the past decade with the loss of jobs," said Maves.

"When I went door-to-door, that was the number one issue," he added.

Maves said people from all types of demographics engaged in discussion with him during the day of campaigning and he claims that people are looking or change.

"There is a great deal of frustration," he said, also explaining that many individuals wanted to talk about issues surrounding the Fort Erie Racetrack and the potential for a new hospital in the southern tier of Niagara.

If elected, Maves said that under the leadership of Fort Erie native Tim Hudak, their party will address the amount of restrictions people in business have faced under the rule of the provincial Liberal government.

"I think the Liberals have layered on so much red tape and regulation on business, they have choked the competitiveness in Ontario," said Maves.

"Businesses need to be free to do more."

Speaking about the Fort Erie Race Track, Maves reflected back a few years to 2003 when the historic facility was thriving and turning a profit, which he attributes to the slots at racetracks program that was abolished by the provincial government last year.

> **"There is a great deal of frustration."**
>
> *— Niagara Falls PC candidate Bart Maves*

The Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation, an entity of the provincial government, is modernizing its strategy and Maves feels it should look into the way things were in Niagara and especially Fort Erie as an example of success.

"We should return back to the way we had it in 2003 and it would mean a lot for jobs in Fort Erie," said Maves.

He feels the slots program should have never been given the axe.

"It was the wrong way to go," said Maves.

Liberal incumbent member of provincial parliament Kim Craitor says he is not focusing as much as his opponents on the possibility of another election, that would be held if the current minority government were to move a non-confidence vote against the Liberal's proposed budget that has not even been presented yet.

"It seems odd to me, that we haven't even seen a budget and they want to vote against it," said Craitor.

For the time being, the MPP for the Niagara Falls riding says the task at hand is carrying out the responsibilities he was elected to act on and not look ahead to an election that could cost the Ontario government a projected $92 million.

"There is no thought in my mind about an election," he said.

Craitor said if the Conservatives support an election by voting down the province's budget, he will prepare when the time arrives.

"They (Conservatives) desperately want an election. You can see it, they're already campaigning," he said.

But in summary, he doesn't think sending Niagara voters to the polls before the full four-year term expires in October 2015 is the right way to go.

"They want to spend $92 million and I don't," said Craitor.

Liberal Premier Kathleen Wynne's 2013-14 budget will be tabled at Queen's Park on May 2, a bit later than the provincial budget is customarily released. It will require support from one of the two opposition parties. It being defeated in the legislature would lead to an early election call.

KRIS DUBÉ Fort Erie Times

The Ontario Pogressive Conservative's Niagara Falls candidate Bart Maves and his supporters canvassed the Crescent Park neighbourhood of Fort Erie last Saturday morning, meeting at Tim Hortons on Garrison Rd. first to go over the route with Pat Hudak, the father of Ontario PC Leader Tim Hudak.

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Kris Dubé
Fort Erie Times

The YMCA of Niagara's annual Strong Kids Campaign shifted into top gear last week as members, volunteers and staff simultaneously take part in a' cycle-a-thon.'

In an effort to raise awareness and much needed funding to support children in need, participants stationed themselves on exercise bikes for 14-hours to benefit the cause.

The annual campaign is part of a national YMCA focus to raise charitable funds to financially assist children and youth to gain from YMCA experiences in membership, day camp, youth outreach programs, child care and more.

"It is great to see our members, volunteers and staff energized and excited about giving back to their community and raising awareness for such a great cause" said Lauri Brady, campaign director.

In 2013, the YMCA of Niagara will financially assist over 13,500 children and youth from disadvantaged families. With a charitable goal of $355,000 the campaign launch has achieved about 60 per cent of its funds primarily from the deep commitment of YMCA staff and volunteers.

Fort Erie fire chief Larry Coplen was at the E.J. Freeland YMCA on Wednesday, for a 14-hour training session on a stationary bike.

The next day, he told the Fort Erie Times his knee was a little sore and that no major injuries were reported at the event.

"I kind of knew what I was getting into," said Coplen.

Coplen raised $700 in pledges leading up to the cycle-a-thon and throughout the day of his workout, collected another $800.

He remembers growing up with his brother and the both of them being involved in recreational activities and sports. It was an opportunity he feels any child should be afforded.

"A lot of kids don't have that chance, so I wanted to help as much as I can," said Coplen.

The final test for the fire chief was closing the day with a spin class, which is when he said he looked forward to calling it quits.

"That was pretty difficult. I finished... but I was dogging it," he said.

Sharon Schilz is the manager of the YMCA in Fort Erie said it's been great leading up to the big day, considering the campaign's goal has already been more reached by more than half.

"There's been a lot of participation staff, members and the community," said Schilz.

"The enthusiasm has been amazing."

KRIS DUBE Fort Erie Times

Fort Erie fire Chief Larry Coplen participating in the YMCA of Niagara's Strong Kids Campaign last week.

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Do You Remember?

Many of you will remember when the YMCA was located at Dufferin and Central Ave. in Fort Erie.

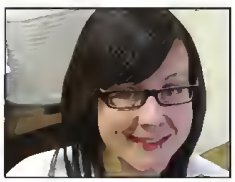
These Y Menettes were preparing posters to announce their upcoming series of women's health films.

From left to right are Sandy Davis, Sandy (Slee) White (standing), unknown and Anita (Van Plew) Tudwell.

Our thanks to Doug Scott who came into town to research at the Museum, Anne Campbell who is a former YMCA board member and an anonymous caller for identifying our photo.

This week's photo celebrates another year of racing for the Fort Erie Racetrack. This photo, taken May 1, 1974 shows a female jockey. If you know her name or anyone else in the photo, please call the museum at (905)894-5322 or e-mail us at museum@forterie.on.ca.

'Share the road' signs meant to be followed



Melissa Mangelsen
Reporter's Notebook

When the weather gets nicer, it's an indication that summer is on the way. For myself, and other cyclists it's also a time to tune up the bikes and hit the trails and roadways.

A constant issue I face, and see happening daily, are the cars who are blatantly ignoring the 'share the road' signs.

I like to look at these people as the bullies of the road. For those who have cycled I'm sure you've all been passed by a fast moving vehicle whose mirror just about hits your shoulder.

A lot of new bikers are frightened by vehicles passing too close and too quickly. A tip for that is to avoid hugging the curb if you're a biker. Motorists should be allowing three feet of clearance when passing a bike, but five to six feet is typically preferable.

For those people who like to clear a cyclist by mere inches at high speeds, your chances of reacting if they fell or swerved to avoid road debris would be very slim.

Consideration for other peoples safety goes a long way.

The same goes for bikers, following the rules of the roads, stopping at stop signs, allowing those who have the right away go first and not riding in the centre of a lane is just as important.

The roadways were meant to be shared. Some look at biking as a 'hobby', others use it as transportation to cut down on pollution and save on gas, all while getting some exercise.

Another common issue I see among cyclists is the lack of head protection. You can't reverse brain injuries and you can't reverse death. This piece of equipment is such an important safety tool.

In Ontario, it is the law if you are under 18 to wear an approved bicycle helmet when traveling on any public road. About three-quarters of all cycling fatalities involve head injuries. In fact, a study done from 2006 to 2010 analyzed 129 accidental bike related deaths in Ontario. It found that cyclists who did not wear a helmet were three times more likely to die from brain trauma than those who were wearing protective head gear.

So parents, if your child is heading out on a bike treat helmet wearing as a life or death situation and remember the old saying "helmets save lives."

If that isn't enough, there's also a fine of $60, with a court cost of $5 and the victim fine surcharge of $10. In total if the plea is guilty it will cost you $75 for not wearing a helmet.

Happy and safe riding this summer!

If you would like to leave me feedback, call me at (905) 871-3100 ext. 208 or you can send me an email to melissa.mangelsen@sunmedia.ca.

opinion page

Sweeping up Stevensville

Last Saturday the Black Creek-Stevensville Lions Club held another successful cleanup on Stevensville Road between Bowen and Netherby Roads. Organizers wish to thank the invaluable helpers who participated, including the Black Creek Navy League Cadets and the Scouts from Black Creek.

'This is all of our business,' says reader

Dear Editor,

This is a response to Mr. Jardine's letter in last week's Fort Erie Times.

Mr. Jardine is entitled to his opinion, however as someone who actually attends council meetings I am not sure what Mr. Jardine sees on Cogeco that we are not seeing live in person. The former lawyer had a duty to the Corporation of the Town of Fort Erie and the taxpayers to protect sensitive information.

For some reason these councillors felt that their position on council put them above that fact and that they could just demand anything they wanted.

It doesn't work that way, no matter what Mr. Jardine thinks.

I am not sure how he knows what most of the people who watch Cogeco think?

Does he have microphones and cameras in people's houses?

The bottom line is that these accusations are very serious and why would anyone, especially the four councilors being accused not want this to go to court?

If they are innocent then this is an opportunity to have their names cleared.

Mayor Martin, councillors Passero and Shular as well as for mer councillor Tim Whitfield are taking a huge risk for something that Mr. Jardine calls frivolous.

Firing a town staffer after she filed a harassment claim is very important.

The truth needs to be brought out.

I fully support the mayor and these men in their actions. We have a right to know what is going on behind closed doors when it doesn't pertain to sensitive information regarding someone's personal business. This is all of our business.

Greg Bonito
Fort Erie

Canada unveils new $5 and $10 bills

The Bank of Canada has unveiled new $5 and $10 bills that show off the country's railway and space program.

"With today's unveiling of the final two notes in the series, one can see not only the unique story that each of the five denominations tells, but the unifying theme that underlies them all -- the profound courage, determination, and ingenuity of our nation and its people," said Finance Minister Jim Flaherty in a statement.

Officially unveiled at the Bank of Canada and from aboard the International Space Station (ISS), the $10 polymer bank note shows a train snaking through the Rocky mountains, while the $5 bill features an astronaut and the Canadarm, a robotic arm used in space assembly.

"By giving prominence to Canadian achievements in space, this bank note reminds us that not even the sky is the limit," said ISS Commander Chris Hadfield.

Family thankful for kind gesture

Dear Editor,

The family of Maria Aquilina would like to express their sincere gratitude for the honesty of Mr. Jim McNair, and the members of the Matthew House who returned our mother's wallet, which contained a large sum of money after an estate sale.

This act of integrity moved us deeply, and we wanted to share with others, how honourable Mr. McNair and the organization are.

We have made a donation in kind to the Matthew House, and hope that others in the community will reach out to donate to such a worthy charitable organization aiding refugees coming into Canada.

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you again.

The Aquilina Family

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Chamber not in favour of border fees

Matt Day
QMI Agency Niagara

It may be promoting "1 Less Trip" to the U.S., but the Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce isn't on board with Canadians paying an entry fee to visit their neighbours to the south.

The U.S. is proposing a "land border crossing fee" to ease the country's financial situation. The Department of Homeland Security's 2014 budget calls for a study on the costs to collect a fee from vehicles and pedestrians crossing the border, and to complete it within nine months.

The department's secretary, Janet Napolitano, wrote in written testimony two weeks ago fees to support processing travellers haven't been adjusted for more than 10 years and more customs officers are needed.

Kithio Mwanzia, the chamber's director of government relations, said a fee would "greatly impact" cross-border trading.

"We've talked about reducing barriers and creating more of a free flow for goods and people across the border," he said. "Having a border fee is counter productive."

Vehicles crossing the Peace Bridge in Fort Erie already pay a $3 toll while those at the Rainbow Bridge in Niagara Falls pay $3.25. The proposed fee would be added to what travellers are paying now. A rate has not been determined.

Mwanzia said while the "1 Less Trip" campaign aims at creating a "more informed consumer," the U.S. plan forces travellers into a more costly situation.

He said small and medium sized businesses in Niagara would see problems if they are trying to expand into the U.S. market.

Canadian Chamber of Commerce president Perrin Beatty said border communities would especially feel the ill effects of an entry fee.

He said picking travellers' pockets to fund Homeland Security may generate more money in the short term, but over the long term would slow tourism and reduce tax revenues for both countries.

"Nobody disputes the need to have adequate security on both sides of the border, especially with everything that's happened over the past two weeks, but the question is how do we better fund that?" Beatty said.

Ontario to require insurance cuts

QMI AGENCY

Ontario will require auto insurers to cut rates by an average of 15%, Finance Minister Charles Sousa says. Sousa said legislation to be introduced would lower average annual premiums by $225 per vehicle. NDP Leader Andrea Horwath demanded a 15% reduction in auto rates within a year as one step to secure her support for the minority Wynne government's upcoming budget.

Sousa said there should be an immediate impact but did not say exactly when drivers would see the savings.

The legislation demands an average 15% cut and lower premiums for drivers with a good record, and would authorize a crack down on fraud.

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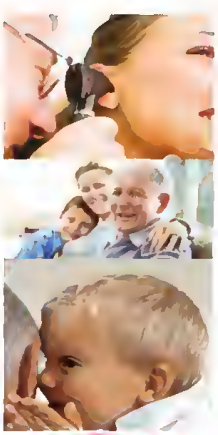

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Rise Against Bullying focusing on concert

Melissa Mangelsen
Fort Erie Times

Justin Preston has been receiving a lot of attention for his campaign to end bullying, but he said for him it's just about being there for people who need someone to listen.

"I'm really trying to make a difference in my community and give positive messages to people. I've been speaking with a lot of kids lately who are having suicidal thoughts. I just keep thinking back to when I was younger, I didn't have anyone to talk to about it. I'm here to support them," said Preston, who's campaign is called Rise Against Bullying.

The Rise Against Bullying campaign has been receiving attention from people all over North America, and because of its success, Preston will be doing a song with Fort Erie musician Carina Frammartino. Preston's cousin who is a producer in Ridgeway is donating his expertise for the song. Preston will be writing the lyrics, while Frammartino will be singing. All the proceeds from the song will go to help support Rise Against Bullying.

There will also be a music video, which will go with the song.

"We're going to have footage of people holding signs and things like that. We're requesting people to keep an eye open so they're able to share their own message," he said.

The song is expected to be on iTunes in the next couple of months for purchase.

"It's a really great opportunity for people to get involved and share their own message."

Preston is also organizing a fundraising concert to benefit youth at The Sanctuary in Ridgeway. The event will feature Frammartino and local artists.

"I wanted to give the youth of the area the chance to show off their talents, whether it's poetry, rap, or music," he said.

He doesn't have an exact date set yet, but hopes to hold it at the end of May or early June.

Saidat, who just has become friends with through their shared passion to stop bullying, will also be attending the concert.

Siadat has visited over 1,000 schools to spread the message of anti-bullying. She just recently donated $500 to Preston to help him purchase Rise Against Bullying T-shirts.

"Saidat is a huge inspiration of mine. She taught me to believe in my dreams because I can achieve them," he said.

The T-shirts should arrive on April 20 and will then be available to purchase.

See Page 9

Fort Erie resident Justin Preston has received a lot of attention for his anti-bullying campaign. He is focusing on a youth benefit concert and is working towards a single for Rise Against Bullying.
Photo provided

'Not enough people hear the positive' – Preston is changing that

From Page 8

The president of the Stevensville Kinettes also offered a free booth to Preston for their Springfest on June 1, which he will be at to sell bracelets and his shirts.

He will be attending college in Hamilton to become a social service worker and said he will take Rise Against Bullying with him.

"I'm planning on talking to the college and seeing if I can get together a group of people. People experience bullying at all ages," he said.

Preston has also had success on YouTube and is blown away by the amount of views his videos have received.

"I always said I would never be that person who posts videos on Youtube because I always felt that was a place where people can put you do and post negative comments, but for some reason I posted a video and now have 45 on there."

"I always felt I was just a Fort Erie kid and no one really recognizes Fort Erie. One of my YouTube videos has over 19,000 views. I've put myself online to help others and to let them know that they're not alone."

Preston's story goes back to high school when he himself was bullied and struggled with thoughts of ending his own life, depression, anxiety and the feeling of being alone.

He keeps all conversations confidential, unless to do so would harm the person he is talking to.

"I've had some really scary instances where I did have to contact the school. For severe cases you have to do that, you can't just ignore that. It's a cry for help."

He spends most of his day online, communicating with others. Receiving about 50 messages every few hours, Preston said he has to keep his own reminders so he can stay strong for others and not be brought down.

"I keep a book of reminders. Every positive message I get I put in this book. When I'm feeling down I pick it up and go through it. I do let this stuff affect me, but I don't let it ruin me. Sometimes I do get depressed and I suffer from anxiety from my years of being bullied. Just knowing that I made someone smile, or made them feel better helps me keep strong," said Preston.

He also thanked his mom for her support, which has also kept him strong.

Involvement in his hometown is something he believes strongly in. He has spoken at Fort Erie Elementary School for students in Gr. 2 to 8.

"I shared my experiences with them, but in kid form."

He's also been invited to speak at other local schools.

He will also participate in an anti-bullying event that will be held at the Fort Erie Public Library.

Preston has also been kept busy with various photo shoots. One was done by a local Fort Erie photographer who is working on a documentary about bullying.

"When I went to the library to take part in that this little girl, probably 12-years-old came up to me and asked me to have her picture taken with me," he laughed.

"It's hard for me to believe that people look up to me and when people tell me my inspirational messages have saved their lives I can't believe the impact I'm having on people," he said.

He also had a photo shoot and will appear on an anti-bullying poster. In the near future he will also be launching a website www.riseagainstbullying.org. Andrew Aitken, from Fort Erie has donated his time and the website to the cause.

Preston does this all on his own time, and just strives to make a difference in peoples lives.

"Not enough people hear positive things about themselves. Life has its ups and downs, but it does go on and it does get better. I always take something negative and turn it into something positive."

Preston is currently looking for sponsors for the upcoming concert. So far, all the funds have come directly out of his pocket.

"If we can get businesses on board to sponsor, we'll make sure they're recognized at the event, so it's advertising for them too," he said.

Rise Against Bullying can be found on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/RiseAgainstBullyingTogether?fref=ts

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Stars4Joshua seeking venue for fundraiser

Melissa Mangelsen
Fort Erie Times

Fort Erie has developed a reputation of being a giving and charitable community. Community support is what bonds people beyond neighbours and to friends.

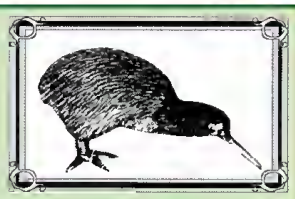
The first annual Stars 4 Joshua event, which is set to take place June 22, is in need of community support.

Maureen Richardson, Joshua's grandmother, said they still haven't been able to secure a venue for the event, and is hoping that someone will have a venue they can use. Since the fundraising event is a non-profit event, with proceeds going to help with the purchase of a wheelchair accessible van for Joshua, and any remaining funds to the Cerebral Palsy Canada and NPCC, Richardson is hoping that someone will come forward and donate the space for them to use.

See Page 12

Joshua Vethaak Junior, who loves music, has been invited to be the 'star' at a youth benefit concert in late May or early June. The concert will be put on by Justin Preston and his Rise Against Bullying Campaign.

Home of Kiwi Picture Framing



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by Alaine Hillier, M.Cl.Sc
Registered by CASLPO
Doctor in Audiology, Audiologist

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TENDER FOR 2013 SIDEWALK REPAIR

CONTRACT NO. IS.13SIDE

Sealed tenders clearly marked as to content will be received by Carolyn J. Kett, Town Clerk, Municipal Centre, Fort Erie, Ontario until 2:00 p.m. LOCAL TIME on:

TUESDAY, MAY 14th, 2013

Commencing immediately afterwards on the above date, tenders will be opened publicly at the Fort Erie Town Hall Meeting Room No. 3.

The work consists of the removal and disposal of concrete sidewalk as well as the supply and placement of approximately 2200 sq. metres of sidewalk throughout the Town of Fort Erie.

All Town of Fort Erie formal competitive bid opportunities, issued by the Purchasing Services Division, are posted on Biddingo.com and organized by commodity.

If a hard copy is required, tender documents may be picked up at the Town Hall, Engineering Division, 1 Municipal Centre Drive, Fort Erie, ON L2A 2S6, commencing Monday, May 6th, 2013 on payment of twenty-eight dollars and twenty-five cents ($28.25) non-refundable cash or cheque payable to the Corporation of the Town of Fort Erie.

Tender Documents may also be viewed at the Niagara Construction Association, 34 Scott Street, St. Catharines, Ontario, upon their release.

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any and all tenders and the lowest or any tender will not necessarily be accepted.

INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF FORT ERIE

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL #FESM-02-2013 BATTLE OF RIDGEWAY INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE

The Corporation of the Town of Fort Erie's Museum Services section is inviting Proposals from qualified, professional firms to undertake the design, fabrication and installation of a minimum of six interpretive signs at the Battle of Ridgeway Memorial Park at 3388 Garrison Road, Ridgeway, prior to Sept. 21, 2013.

Sealed proposals clearly marked as to contents will be received by Carolyn Kett, Town Clerk, Municipal Centre, 1 Municipal Centre Drive, Fort Erie, Ontario, **until 2:00 p.m. local time on**:

FRIDAY MAY 17, 2013

NOTE: The Town of Fort Erie's posts all formal competitive bid opportunities on the Town's Biddingo Landing Page www.biddingo.com/forterie. Alternatively, proposal documents may also be obtained by contacting Bart Menage, Manager Purchasing and Finance Services, bmenage@town.fort.erie.on.ca or (905) 871-1600 ext.2303.

The Corporation of the Town of Fort Erie reserves the right to reject any or all submission and the lowest or any proposal will not necessarily be accepted.

TOWN OF FORT ERIE MUSEUM'S SERVICES

QUOTATION 16-2013

The Corporation of the Town of Fort Erie is inviting submissions from interested bidders to provide any and all labour, materials and equipment necessary to provide:

TREE TRIMMING SERVICES

Sealed submission clearly addressed to Purchasing will be received by **the Customer Service UNIT (CSU) at 1 Municipal Centre Drive, Fort Erie ON** until 2:00 p.m. local time on:

MAY 10, 2013

Specific project details and requirements are provided within the bid document.

Interested bidders are asked to contact Natasha Pisano Purchasing and Finance Clerk at (905) 871-1600 ext. 2321 or alternatively at npisano@forterie.on.ca to make suitable arrangements to pick up the quotation document.

The lowest of any submission not necessarily accepted.

Infrastructure Services
Operations

Community coming together to support Joshua

From Page 10

She said in addition to the venue, they're also still looking for donated items for a yard sale, as well as gift baskets, gift certificates, children toys, or anything they are able to donate to help with the raffle, 50/50 and door prizes.

The thought of looking outside of Fort Erie to hold the event has come into play, but Richardson said she would rather keep it local.

"It would be easier for the people in the community to access, plus Josh is a member of this community. He lives here, he will be attending school in the fall here and he's a part of this community," she said.

Joshua, who is rarely seen without a smile on his face, is full of energy and laughter. He enjoys music, being with his grandma and nearly every show that is on Treehouse.

The challenge for Joshua and his grandma right now is the fact that it's getting harder for her to get him around.

"We drive a Jimmy, which three of us share. As Josbua gets bigger it's increasingly hard to get him in and out of the vehicle," she said.

The cost for a wheelchair accessible vehicle is about $25,000.

"We're hoping to be able to get a vehicle for Joshua as soon as possible, because of the situation involving his transportation."

There is no service in Fort Erie that will pick up a handicapped child and take them to appointments.

Four-year-old Joshua faces many challenges, which began for him when he was two-weeks old. He began seizuring and was rushed to Niagara Falls General Hospital, where he had 12 more seizures.

Following many painful tests, be was diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy, which effects mostly the left side of his body and brain. He is also living with Global Development Delay, cortical vision (the brain doesn't send the message for him to see) and epileptic seizures.

He has been in the care of Richardson since 2011. She tends to him 24 hours a day, seven days a week, but said that he's a tremendous joy to her life.

"Everyday is a new day and we stay positive. There's no negativity in this house."

The focus for the Stars 4 Joshua fundraiser is children.

"We have a magician who is donating his time," she said. Other fun events for children will be a clown, bouncy castle, face painting and temporary tattoos.

There will be two local bands performing and Fort Erie teen Justin Preston, who is an advocate for anti-bullying is helping to support and promote the event.

Carina Frammartino, who's music Joshua loves, will be performing too.

Because not a lot of people are really informed about what Cerebral Palsy is, Richardson is also using the event to bring awareness to Cerebral Palsy.

"A lot of people see children like Josh and don't really understand what's wrong with him, or why he's the way he is," she said.

The venue needs to be big enough to support both the outdoor events, such as the yard sale and children's activities, but also have an option to move things inside if the weather doesn't cooperate.

Richardson said that not a lot of people know the story of Joshua and she's trying to share it with as many people as possible.

"The people that do know have shown tremendous support," she said.

"This little guy needs a vehicle and I'm more than happy to support them in anyway that I can," added Preston.

There are various ways to help Joshua 'get around.'

Stars 4 Joshua will be at a youth benefit concert, which will take place at the end of May or early June. Tbe event is put on by Justin Preston, who has made a name for himself through is Rise Against Bullying campaign.

"We really want Josh to be there. We want him to be the star of the night," said Preston.

One of Joshua's favourite things is music, and this event will be full of local talent.

"I was concerned that it might be too loud for him, but I was told the louder the better," he laughed.

"This little guy needs a vehicle and I'm more than happy to support them in anyway that I can," added Preston.

Stars 4 Joshua wristbands can be purchased, donations of any type are greatly appreciated, and a venue is urgently needed. Money donations can also be made in person, or by visiting http://www.youcaring.com/medical-fundraiser/stars-4-joshua/42189

He also has two groups on Facebook, which can be used for contact information or additional event information.

The Facebook links are https://www.facebook.com/groups/Stars4joshua/?fref=ts and bttps://www.facebook.com/Stars4Joshua?fref=ts

"Joshua is truly the star on my heart. He brings me endless joy, laughter, love and contentment. With the support and help from the community Joshua will get the chance he deserves," said Richardson on the groups Facebook page.

Meals on Wheels serving a fresh fundraising project

Agency's office dedicated to long-time volunteer who was considered an 'icon of the organization'

Kris Dubé
Editor

Fort Erie Meals on Wheels has dedicated its office to a woman who was considered a driving force for more than two decades at the local agency.

Located in St. Paul's Anglican Church, a plaque has been placed in honour of Marilyn Debeau, a long-time volunteer who passed away in 2008.

"She was such an icon with the organization," said executive director Nancy Ryan.

> **"You'll see us knocking on doors, selling tickets and at all the local events."**
>
> *—Tim Wisbey*

The local contingent of Meals on Wheels was founded in 1971 by 60 people from six different churches in Greater Fort Erie and currently serves 217 clients.

Last year, 17,700 meals were served all across this vast municipality.

As the amount of need for service in Greater Fort Erie continues to be high every year and costs seeming to climb every time a new calendar is started, the agency is pursuing a fresh concept that will raise additional funds.

They have obtained a gaming license from the Town of Fort Erie and will begin offering a lottery, with the first draw taking place on Oct. 11 but with the campaign to promote the initiative immediately.

"You'll see us knocking on doors, selling tickets and at all the local events," said treasurer Tim Wisbey.

There will be four prizes in amounts of $1,000, $750, $500 and $250.

Ticket prices are one for three dollars and two for five dollars.

The impact of direct subsidies such as covering costs for clients who cannot afford the entire $5.55 cost of a meal and indirect subsidies such as containers and a stipend for drivers, the agency ends up covering an average of $2.35 per meal served in a year, according to Wisbey.

The entire organization is extremely thankful for the continued support through donations the community provides but hopes new ideas like a lottery can create additional funds.

Recruiting new donors, volunteers and board members is also something they hope to achieve during their upcoming campaign.

Community donations received last year amounted to $39,000.

Ryan said every year, the grand total of donations varies.

"It's very cyclical," she said.

Anyone interested in purchasing tickets for the Oct. 11 draw can call (905) 871-9366.

KRIS DUBÉ Fort Erie Times

Last week, Fort Erie Meals on Wheels officially dedicated its office inside St. Paul's Anglican Church to former volunteer Marilyn Debeau, who passed away in 2008. Seen here are pastor Julio Romero, left, board of directors members Tim Wisbey, John Hatch, Tony Alkemade, John Newton, John Dunn, staff member Mary McLelland-Papp and executive director Nancy Ryan. Missing from the photo is Kathleen Wittick and Susan Speck.

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Coffee house supports students

Melissa Mangelsen
Fort Erie Times

Students at Ridgeway Crystal Beach High School will be coming together May 9, to support two fellow classmates, Sydney Shadbolt and Aruna Dutt, who will be going abroad for mission work over the summer holidays.

The students are hosting a Coffee House, at the school, with a cost of $2 or two canned goods. Canned goods will be donated to the Salvation Army Food Drive, while any money received will go to help Shadbolt and Dutt.

For Dutt, this is her first time travelling for mission work. She will be going to Kenya where she will help build schools or systems to provide clean drinking water. Shadbolt has gone in the past, and this time she will be going to Ghana.

"I heard about the program from Sydney who talked about it in class. It was something I Really wanted to get into. I want to go and make a difference and I know it'll make a difference in my life and the way I live daily," said Dutt.

The school puts on a Coffee House twice a year and has seen success in the past. It features music, spoken word, art, drama and a book sale. Entertainment is all provided by the students.

The event is open to everyone in the community, it runs from 7 to 9 p.m., in the school's cafeteria. The Coffee House is all volunteer run and it is all put on by student council.

The students also raised $800 for COPE recently when about 20 students took part in the 30-hour Famine.

Shadbolt and Dutt need to each raise $4,000 for their trip, which is through a program called Me to We Free the Children.

Students at Ridgeway Crystal Beach High School set to host Coffee House, May 9 at 7 p.m.

Be aware of street sweepers

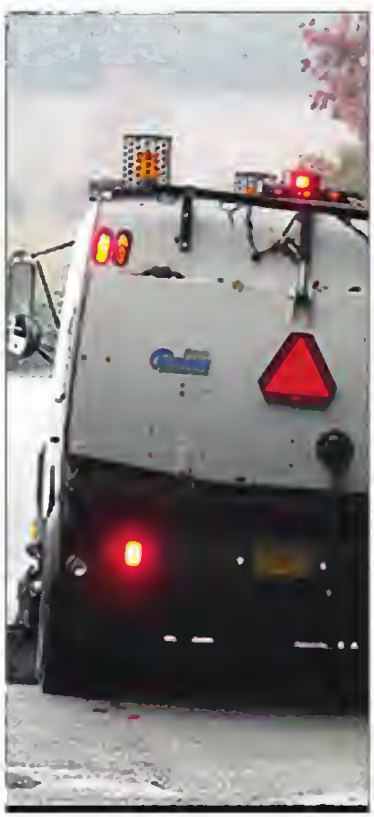
The post-winter cleanup of sand is entering its final week. The street sweeping operation consists of mechanical sweepers and water trucks where required, accompanied by Town staff.

Curbed streets within the Town of Fort Erie will be swept.

This sweeping will be conducted in daytime hours with the exception of business districts as detailed below. If you see the sweeping operation in your area, please remove vehicles parked on the roadway. Caregivers and school staff are asked to ensure that children stay clear of this operation.

Prior to the sweepers coming through (where sand is still visible on the roadway), property owners are encouraged to sweep sidewalks and driveways onto the road.

For further information, please contact the Operations Division at 905-871-1600, Ext. 2466.



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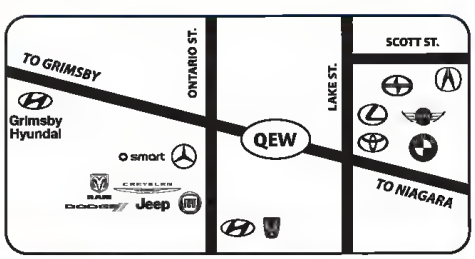

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2. By submitting your photo you are authorizing Sun media to publish your pboto in the Fort Erie Times and through their online editions.
3. By submitting the photos you are confirming that you have the consent of all subjects of the photos you submit for publishing as per rule #2.
4. The top 5 entries as determined by our judges will be entered to win a gift basket from Where'd u Get That, (Ridgeway, Ontario), valued at $150.00 plus a 2nd and 3rd gift certificate for a personalized iphone case from Tech Services Niagara (Helena Street, Fort Erie) all of which will be available for pick up at the Fort Erie Times office any time after 9am Thursday May 9th.
5. All pbotos must be submitted by 5pm Monday May 6th to qualify.
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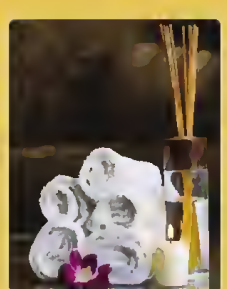

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FOCUS SALON

Local brothers release Death to Bullying

Melissa Mangelsen
Fort Erie Times

Everyday 160,000 students are afraid to go to school because they are victims of bullying.

Bullying has been in the news a lot lately, and with the use of social media and cell phones, bullies are using those as tools to target people.

Bullying can destroy lives, but three Fort Erie brothers, believe they have written a book that can save lives.

The book Death to Bullying, written by Dale, Robert and Gary Hirons, is an educational program that Robert believes should be taught in all schools.

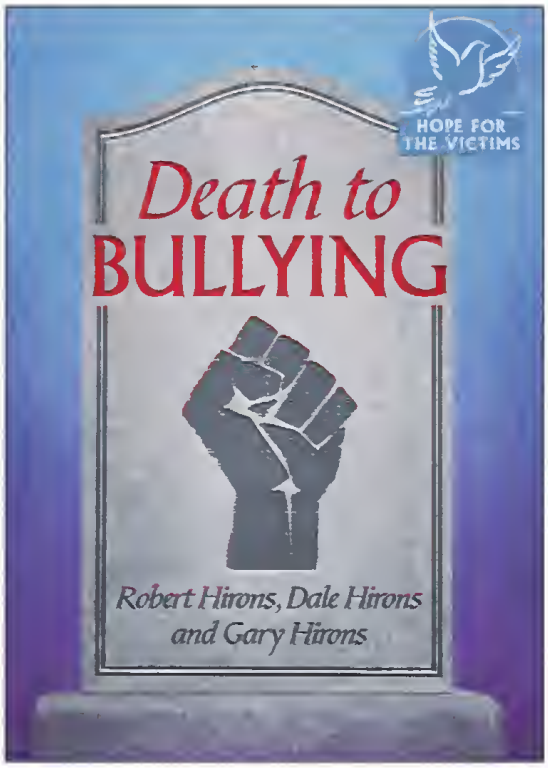
Though there are already hundreds of books published on bullying, Dale said their book is unique because it doesn't look at the after effects of bullying, but it attacks the root of bullying and teaches students at a young age not to be bullies.

"We took a look at bullying and how to stop it. We took a proactive approach to it and looked at attacking the root cause and teaching students how to not be bullies. We took a different approach and that's why it's unique to others," said Dale.

The book educates on all the various types of bullying, drug abuse, alcohol abuse, date rape and special needs.

Special needs students are the most bullied students in the school system, which Dale said is disturbing.

See Page 21



Fort Erie brothers launch their book, Death to Bullying.

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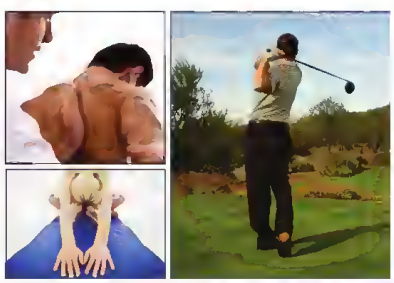

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Brothers hope to raise enough money to release hard copy

From Page 20

The book consists of 4 parts:

Part-1 explains in detail what bullying means and what it consists of, what are the acts of bullying, when does bullying become assault, when does bullying become criminal assault. It contains a section on cyber-bullying, what it is and what to do if your child becomes a victim. It also contains a section on homophobic bullying and what are the responsibilities of the school in this matter. It tells parents what steps to take if their child is a victim of bullying up to and including seeking legal advice.

Part-2 is the schools Anti-Bullying Policy, which by the way received a letter of support from the Ontario Principals Learning Foundation. This policy explains what the school must do to stop bullying and if an incident does occur what steps they must take to ensure it will not happen again up to and including laying criminal charges.

Part-3 is a teacher's guide for grades 1-8 on what bullying is and how to stop it using role playing, quizzes, exams, posters etc. This is vital as bullying research has shown that bullying escalates from grades 1-4 with grades 5-8 the most prevalent years of bullying incidents.

Part-4 is a section on Autism Spectrum Disorder which has gained prominence as research has dramatically shown that in North America 1 child in every 88 has Autism and in fact 1 boy in every 88 has autism. To these parents come the fear of what happens when their child attends school and cannot understand what bullying is a how to prevent it. Bullying research has shown that children with special needs face the highest risk of being bullied in school. This book explains how the teacher can show the child what are the acts of bullying and if it does occur what they can do. It also helps the teachers understand what they can do to make the classroom easier for a child with special needs to function in.

Part-5 is an educational program that helps our youth make better life-style decisions on choices they will make in every-day circumstances such as:

alcohol, drugs, addiction, peer pressure, eating disorders etc. This program was awarded a grant from the Canadian Federal Governments National Crime Prevention.

Currently they are trying to raise the funds needed to make hardcopies of the books as well as launch a website, which would offer additional information and up-to-date items.

On May 25, at the Optimist Hall they will be holding a fundraiser called A Taste of Nashville, with proceeds going towards their book launch.

Death to Bullying is available in e-book form, for $9.99 and can be found on Amazon.ca and Kobo.

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Is it a floater, or a medical emergency?

People who tend to party too much on a Saturday night are apt to see pink elephants in their vision. But others who never misbehave may suddenly notice spots, threads or cob-web-like structures floating in front of their eyes. What causes these images and when are they a medical emergency?

Eye floaters are those tiny flecks, spots or cob-web-like structures that appear to drift aimlessly around in your field of vision. A few people find them terribly annoying. Others fret that they may herald the onset of a serious eye problem. Or even end in blindness.

What causes these floaters? The vitreous is a large chamber in the back part of the eye. Early in life it consists of a gel-like substance that is crystal clear. But as we age, this mass begins to dissolve and become liquefied. This causes some undissolved particles to float around in the more liquid vitreous. These moveable objects then cast shadows on the retina and sufferers see them in front of their eyes.

Patients become particularly aware of floaters when they look at a white wall, or on a bright sunny day, or when they gaze at the sky. Others find the cob-web-like- structures very annoying when working at a white computer screen.

Floaters are much like gray hair or wrinkled skin. The eye ages like any other organ in the body. But each part of the eye gets its wrinkles in a different way. For instance, the need to back away to see letters in the telephone book is the result of the lens becoming more rigid with age.

Some people become compulsive about floaters and can't stop looking at them. They're frustrated that these specks never stand still when they try to focus on them. And of course the more they search for floaters, the more they find, and the more it bothers them. In fact, a large number of people have floaters but never see them.

Dr. Charles L Schepens, one of Harvard's famous ophthalmologists, often gave this sage advice to patients troubled by floaters. "Make them your friend", he said. But there are times when unfriendly floaters appear.

Patients who see a sudden

Dr. Gifford Jones

shower of floaters, sometimes associated with flashes of light or sparks, should immediately seek medical attention. This may indicate that a vitreous strand has exerted enough pressure on the retina that a retinal detachment has occurred. And if a curtain falls over the vision, it's further proof that retinal detachment is present.

A report in the Journal of the American Medical Association states that the sudden appearance of floaters and flashes means that one in seven people with these symptoms will have developed either a tear or detachment of the retina.

But not all flashes are of retinal origin. Some people complain of seeing flashes of light that appear as jagged vibrating lines or "heat waves" in both eyes. These sensations usually last about 10 to 15 minutes and can occur without a headache and are believed due to migraine.

Retinal detachment is a serious complication and the sooner treatment is started, the greater the chance that vision can be restored. It's a terrible tragedy when people ignore a sudden appearance of floaters hoping they will go away and lose an eye that could be saved.

Vitrectomy is normally used as a last resort, in part because 80 percent of patients who have never had a cataract develop one within six months of this procedure.

This means that this procedure is never a prudent option for those who are simply annoyed by constantly seeing floaters. The risk of complications is too great. The best treatment is to try and ignore them and "make them your friend".

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Students taking play to provincials

Ridgeway-Crystal Beach High School, first school in district to take play to provincials in five years

Melissa Mangelsen
Fort Erie Times

Drama club students at Ridgeway-Crystal Beach High School will be taking their play Big Love to provincials May 8 to 12.

The play itself is one of the earliest plays of the Western World, which was called The Suppliant Women. American playwright Charles L. Mee, too the play and wanted to see how it would look in today's world. He changed the name to Big Love, and learned that it still spoke to the moment.

The play takes the plot of the original Greek play into modern times. It is about 50 bridges who flee to a manor in Italy to avoid marrying their 50 cousins.

The play deals with refugees, gender wars and men and women trying to find what will get them through the rubble of dysfunctional relationships, anger, rage and heartache.

The 17 student cast and crew spent eight weeks getting it to the stage where it was at when they took it to Districts. From there they went onto regionals and will now be able to showcase it at the provincial level.

They are the only school to go to provincials from this district in the past five years.

"We're really excited about provincials, it's going to be really fun. There's less pressure at provincials because it's the final stage. It's more just a celebration of art," said Elane Cooke.

During their time at provincials they will also be able to participate in workshops and learn from others in the business.

"I'm really looking forward to the workshops. There's a lot of talent there and they give you suggestions to see if something will work better for you or the play," said Lindsey Burgess.

The community will have their opportunity to see Big Love on May 15 and 16, 8 p.m., at the school. Donations are welcomed and will be put towards the cost of sending themselves to provincials.

"Our principal has been incredibly supportive of us and the drama club, we're really grateful to her," said Britney Whitaker.

For the most part, the students in the play didn't not have a lot of experience as actors, but worked together to put together a solid performance.

Though the students don't necessarily know what the future will hold for them, the club has sparked the interest of drama in them.

"I don't know if I'll get into acting because it's a really tough business to break into, but drama will always be something that I'm involved in," said Mackenzie McLoud.

They will be performing Big Love on the first night of provincials, May 8 in Hamilton.

"We're performing on the first night, closing out the day so we're really excited about that," said Cooke.

When asked if they get nervous while performing they all answered no. Though the level of nerves varies per person, they said they just go out there and become the character.

Drama Club students at Ridgeway-Crystal Beach High School will be taking their play Big Love to provincials.
The play has been revised by Charles L. Mee, to make it relevant to today's world.

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Supporter of youth sports to be added to wall of fame

Kris Dubé
Fort Erie Times

There are four inductees that will be added onto the Fort Erie Sports Wall of Fame next month and 88-year-old Any Brauweiler is one of them.

Andy was born in Welland in 1925. During the Second World War in 1942 at the age of 17 he joined the Navy and served for two years after which he studied for the priesthood for 12 years, earning degrees in French and Philosophy. Andy first became exposed to Fort Erie as a supply teacher in the 1960's.

Andy coached a fastball team in Niagara-on-the-Lake and when he moved to Fort Erie in 1970 was instrumental in developing a youth travel fastball league where he remained active for over a decade. He was one of the founders of the Chippawa Junior C hockey team and even attempted to get a Junior C team for Ridgeway.

Andy has helped raise over a million dollars for upgrades to the former West End Arena, currently called the Crystal Ridge Arena. He has also fundraised for a variety of youth sports organizations in Fort Erie during the more than 40 years he has lived here. For the past 30 years, and even now, he continues to manage the Ridgeway-Crystal Beach High School hockey program.

Andy has been a proud supporter and an enthusiastic builder for youth sports. He believes discipline is best developed through sports. His many accomplishments are appreciated by thousands of youths and will for generations to come.

When finding out he would be honoured at a ceremony on June 14, it made him realize how long he has been involved with helping young local athletes.

"It's strange how fast time goes by, I've been doing this for 70 years," he said when meeting with the Fort Erie Times this week.

Brauweiler isn't as physically able as he used to be but remains a part of the team and does what he can when serving with the Blue Devils hockey team.

"If I could help them more, I would love to," he said.

The awards ceremony and dinner is being held on Fri., Jun. 14 at the Leisureplex Banquet Hall.

Doors are open at 6 p.m. and dinner is at 7:15 p.m. with the induction ceremonies to folow immediately after dinner, including the unveiling of the plaques on the Fort Erie Sports Wall of Fame in the Kinsmen Arena of the

Tickets can be ordered by calling Linda at Mike George's office at (905) 871-8705.

KRIS DUBE Fort Erie Times

Andy Brauweiler sports his 'Punch Imlach' hat and shows his Ridgeway-Crystal Beach High School Blue Devils headwear. He is one of four inductees onto the Fort Erie Sports Wall of Fame this year.

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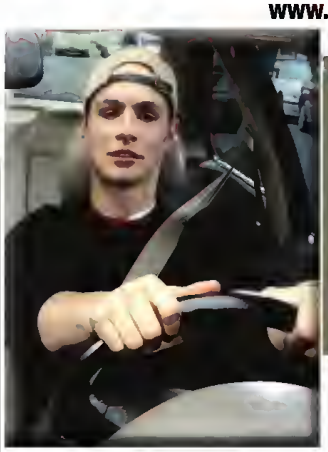

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MAY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, May 4th
Randy Thomas 7pm - 11pm
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Sunday, May 5th
Election Of Officers 1pm

Monday, May 6th
General Meeting 7:30pm

Friday, May 10th
Karaoke Chics 7pm -11pm
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Friday, May 24th
Karaoke Chics 7pm - 11pm
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Special Note - Summer Hours
Fish Fry 4pm - 7pm
Take out 4pm - 6pm

130 Garrison Road, Fort Erie
Phone: 905-871-9566 for more information.

Canadian government vulnerable to spying

QMI Agency

The federal government secrets are still needlessly vulnerable to spying five years after the auditor general pointed out gaps in "protecting sensitive information and assets" when the feds hire private contractors.

"Overall, progress has been unsatisfactory in implementing the commitments made in response to our 2007 recommendations," Auditor General Michael Ferguson said in his latest report released Tuesday.

The report says Treasury Board policies aren't clear enough about the security clearance private contractors need to have in order to gain access to protected or classified information.

In some cases, the government is giving contracts to people who don't have proper clearance, with the military singled out as the worst of the lot.

"Departments and agencies — in particular National Defence — need to improve their practices to ensure that security requirements are met before a contract is awarded," Ferguson said in a statement.

Ferguson's office found the military taking cavalier risks by sometimes using military personnel to escort contractors without security clearance on a project site, or by trying to remove classified material from a place where an uncleared contractor is working.

Despite a 2011 CSIS warning about massive state-sponsored espionage targeting Canada, and a recent high-profile case of a Navy officer spying for the Russians, the military scrapped special precautions during the construction of a secure communications area at CFB Petawawa.

Plans called for security personnel, fences and restricted access to the construction site.

When an inspection last year found none of that in place, National Defence decided it wasn't necessary after all.

The audit rated the RCMP as "mostly compliant" with proper security procedures, though paperwork was sometimes incomplete.

Only CSIS and Communications Security Establishment Canada were found to comply with or exceed requirements for outside contractors.

Meanwhile, the feds have lost track of billions of dollars in special public safety initiatives sparked by the 9/11 terror attacks in 2001.

Liberal and Conservative governments devoted about $12.9 billion for anti-terrorism projects between 2001 and 2009, but by the end of that period reported only $9.8 billion spent.

The audit found "information to explain the difference of $3.1 billion between the funding allocated to departments and agencies and the amount reported spent was not available."

Stumped by shoddy accounting, the auditor general was left suggesting the money may have been reported as part of regular program spending, it may have been re-assigned to some other purpose or it may not have been spent at all.

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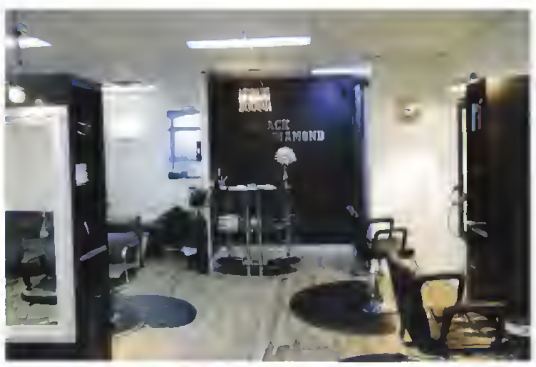

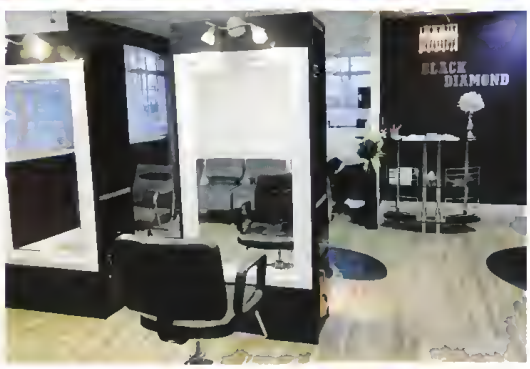

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Gas plant cancellations cost $585 million

QMI AGENCY

How's this for a gas bill? $585 million.

That is the minimum cost to Ontarians for cancelling and relocating the Oakville and Mississauga plants after signing contracts with private companies to build the projects.

Ontario Power Authority CEO Colin Andersen told a committee Tuesday morning that they have revised the cost of the Oakville cancellation to $310 million from $40 million.

The Ontario Auditor General had reported that the true tab for the Mississauga plant relocation will be $275 million, not the $190 million estimate previously provided by OPA.

Premier Kathleen Wynne is scheduled to address the committee this afternoon.

The Ontario Liberal government has been quoting the lower OPA numbers when telling the public how much its controversial decisions to cancel the unpopular projects would cost.

Andersen said it was a complex matter to determine the true expense of moving the plants.

"We provided them with a lot of numbers and the numbers are very complicated and they can't be distilled down into easy-to-communicate elements," he said.

The Tories, who have been saying that the Oakville pricetag is close to $1 billion, continued to challenge the OPA numbers at committee.

Ontario Energy Minister Bob Chiarelli faced the media at Queen's Park on Feb. 21, following the bombshell announcement that there were yet more documents to be released in the gas plant cancellations. (Antonella Artuso/Toronto Sun)

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Solving global shortages

Niagara's strengths include local power generation and transmission

Tony Ricciuto
QMI Agency Niagara

High knowledge and high skills go hand-in-hand with the best paying jobs.

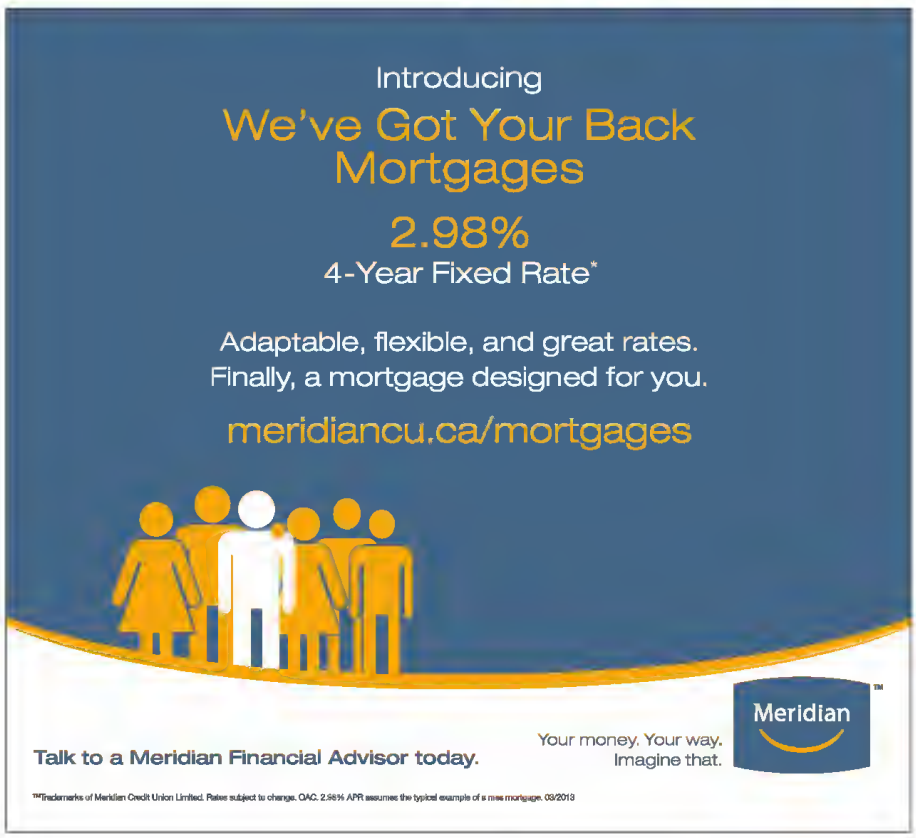
"The economy has restructured and some of the lower skilled manufacturing jobs have disappeared, but there are also companies who have specific skills they are looking for but are not able to find. Those are the same skills that are in hot demand all over the world," said Diane Simsovic, Niagara Region's economic development director.

Those jobs include metallurgical engineers, heavy equipment mechanics or specialty welders.

"These are global shortages and you are competing with companies all over the world for the same skilled people," said Simsovic. "Niagara College and Brock University have been working more closely with industry to identify what those skills are and how they can ensure those coming out of programs will have the skills that employers need."

If has been a difficult road for those who have lost their employment in recent years, or are now working at a job that pays much less with little or no benefits.

"We need to build on the strengths that we have here and tourism is one of our strengths," said Simsovic. "There are jobs right across the spectrum in the tourism sector. There are entry level jobs that help our young people and our students find employment over the summer months or that help new immigrants to land their first job in Niagara or Canada. But there are also high-skilled, high-paying jobs that might have to do with guest services or information technology or managing the organization's tourism attractions and assets. Those are all high-knowledge, high-skilled jobs."



She notes there are masters degree programs in hospitality management and there are opportunities for those who are qualified in those areas.

Even in the fast food industry, some companies have started to recruit in universities to try and raise the profile of their industry.

"It's a good career progression for young people who are coming out of school and we want to make sure they have a wide variety of career options available to them," said Simsovic.

Earlier this year, general manager Jim Thibert came under fire from one councillor for comments he made at the Fort Erie Economic Development and Tourism Corporation's 2013 budget presentation.

Thibert talked about companies that have a hard time filling high-tech positions. He mentioned those are good jobs that can be filled by local people, but they need to prepare and be trained or retained in order to compete for those advanced jobs.

At the Niagara Employment Help Centre on Thorold Stone Rd., in Niagara Falls, about 700 people a month walk through their doors looking for work.

"There's not a lot of jobs out there and a lot of it is seasonal," said Ethel Churchill, executive director.

Most of their client base is over 40 years of age and have a Grade 12 education or less.

"A lot of the older people might have been at the same job for years and suddenly they find themselves in a situation where they don't know what to do when it comes to job searching," said Tirsha Roach, program manager. "People would go out to meet someone, they would shake hands and end up with a job."

Those who have a higher education and possess specialized skills find employment much quicker, but that work is often found out of the Niagara region, she adds.

The help centre offers a variety of programs and certificate workshops so that people can update their skills and have a better chance of finding a new job or getting back into the workforce.

Construction jobs are usually on the increase during the summer months said Churchill, but this year it appears many employers are calling back former employees, but don't plan to add many new hires.

Ethel Churchill, left, and Trisha Roach from the Niagara Employment Help Centre in Niagara Falls look over a list of clients who are looking for work. People with higher education and work skills have an advantage in todays job market.
Photo supplied

Many people use online job searches when looking for work, but for each one that's posted hundreds of people might apply.

"One or two jobs will go up, but it's not like anyone is hiring in mass quantity," said Roach. "We have a list of the websites that people can check."

Churchill said some businesses don't even bother to advertise jobs because they get so many resumes, but it's important to knock on doors and network with other workers because they often hear when jobs become available.

Niagara Region's Economic growth strategy plan:

- Manufacturing comprises 14% of Niagara's gross domestic product
- 984 companies, primarily small and medium sized businesses, employ 21,200 individuals
- Niagara's strengths include local power generation and transmission
- Available skilled trades and specialized training programs
- higher education and retraining available through Brock University and Niagara College

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Technology summit to help businesses

Using technology productively and judiciously is a key to making a business thrive.

But with the confusing morass of ever-changing apps, hardware and systems, it can be daunting just to keep ahead.

With that in mind, the Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce is holding a high-profile Niagara Technology Summit on May 8 to help pull the area's technology offerings together.

It includes an interactive trade show, breakout information sessions, networking and a keynote speech by technology expert Marc Saltzman.

"This is a marquee chamber event," said chamber policy coordinator Kithio Mwanzia, adding anywhere from 350 to 400 are expected at the Niagara Falls gathering.

"It offers a day-long opportunity to network and engage with businesses of all sizes, and all sectors, who are looking to engage in technology."

The event takes place from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., is sponsored by Telus, and takes place at the Scotiabank Convention Centre.

Mwanzia said the summit's creation is connected to the chamber's recent "blueprint for economic growth and prosperity" report card.

"One of the things we noticed is that Niagara businesses of all sizes and sectors ... were not fully (making use of) technology opportunities," he said. "The summit emerged as a means to close that gap."

Breakout sessions address needs such as leveraging social media, document security and networks.

"Small businesses in particular are generally apprehensive about new technological applications," Mwanzia said, adding that can be a drag against growing into a medium-sized category or larger.

The event will also have a focus on maximizing tourism and retail technologies. "Sessions are also designed specifically to target emerging areas and technology, and how small and medium-sized enterprises can leverage them," he said.

To register and for more information, visit niagaratechsummit.ca

***

Niagara College Foundation's 24th annual Seafood Gala has raised $135,000 in support of students.

FILE PHOTO

Kithio Mwanzia

The event was held April 6 at the Fallsview Casino Resort in Niagara Falls. It drew a sold-out crowd of more than 660 business, community and educational leaders.

Money raised will fund equipment and learning resources, as well as scholarships and bursaries.

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Sealed requests for quotation clearly marked as to content, will be received by Veronica Landry, Manager of Historic Bridgeburg Business Improvement Association, until *Thursday, May 9th, 2:00pm*.

Quotations are to be sealed within your own envelope and clearly identified as "Response to RFPI #BBIA2013 and delivered to
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23 Jarvis Street, Fort Erie, L2A 2S3.
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Trinity Life Church
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- Advanced sales only-
Ticket Price: $10.00 available from:
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To accompany a fine selection of special teas there will be a delightful array of wonderful tea sandwiches - scones with jams 'n creams - delicate goodies - fruit & cheeses awaiting you.

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Skaters take home gold

Ridgeway athletes, Elaine Cook and Cora Ann MacKinnon were honoured last Friday night at the 41st Annual Sports Awards Night in Welland for their outstanding achievements in figure skating. Both students train with the Niagara Centre Skating Club and have achieved Gold Medals from Skate Canada.

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All smiles at Blood Donor clinic

KRIS DUBÉ Fort Erie Times

Cindy Lloyd, right, was all smiles as she donated blood for the first lime in a long while at St. Michael's Parish Hall for Canada Blood Services clinic. She is joined by Tracy Whitley who took care of her.

Donating blood saves lives

Every minute of every day someone in Canada needs blood. A recent poll conducted by the Canadian Blood Services said that 52% of Canadians say they, or a family member, have needed blood or blood products for surgery or for medical treatment.

Many people may not realize how much blood is needed for everyday emergencies. Hip replacement surgery requires two units of blood (one unit is the equivalent to one donation).

Cancer treatment and cardiovascular surgery use five units of blood. Internal bleeding can result in between two to eight units, depending on the severity. Leukemia takes eight units a week.

Car crashes remain at the top spot with up to about 50 units required.

To donate, you must be at least 17 years of age, in general good health and feeling well on the day of your donation.

More information on donating blood can be found at the Canadian Blood Services website at www.blood.ca

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Brick to dogs in hot cars

Even though it's only Spring and the scorching heat has not landed upon us yet, I still see people leaving their dogs in the car on the few warm days we've had lately. If you really do love your dog, leave him or her at home and don't make them grasp for air in the car while you buy groceries.

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Brick to owners of frantic dog

This is a brick to the two people who I saw leave their dog in front of a local store recently and to put it lightly, this dog was frantic and terrified about being left alone. Thankfully another customer came out and sat with the dog for a bit until the owners arrived.

Brick to dogs outside all day

I'd like to send a brick to people who leave their dogs outside all day when they are at work. All they do is bark at anything that moves and there is no reason why they should be left outside all day to annoy the entire neighbourhood.

Send your bricks & bouquets to: editorial@forterietimes.com or phone: 905–871–3100 ext. 210

Bouquet to people staying positive

This is a bouquet to people who are focusing on positive things like a contest to name Fort Erie the country's favourite fishing town, or cleaning up litter on Earth Day. We need more attention paid to things like this.

Brick to political climate

I'd like to send a brick to the mayor for his role in taking four members of council to court. I feel he should be focused on leadership, even if he doesn't like some of the decisions made by his colleagues on council.

Bouquet to authorities in Boston

This is a bouquet to all the people affected by the recent terror attack in Boston, as well as the authorities. Stay Boston Strong!

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Careers

BSL
Knowledge, Guidance, Financing

Business Success & Loan Centre
Fort Erie
45 Jarvis Street, Fort Ene, Ontario L2A 2S3
Telephone: (905) 871-7331 Email: bslft@niagara.com Fax: (905) 871-5284

OFFICE MANAGER

The Business Success & Loan Centre (BSL) is a non-profit organization established in 1985 and is governed by a volunteer board of directors. Our mandate is to help promote small business, entrepreneurship and economic development. We offer business loans to qualifying businesses in the Niagara Region. We also deliver the Ontario Self-Employment Benefit and the Self-Employment Development programs and offer supportive business counseling and workshops.

OPPORTUNITY / KEY ACCOUNTABILITIES
We are seeking a permanent, full-time Office Manager responsible for the overseeing and administration of the office, handling loan applications and processing, delivering certain government programs, supervising subordinate staff, promoting and representing the BSL in the local area and providing excellent customer service.

WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR
- Excellent organizational skills with ability to prioritize functions in a demanding environment
- Strong mathematical and reconciliation skills
- A high degree of initiative (self-starter)
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Excellent computer skills with proven knowledge of Microsoft Office
- Outstanding customer service skills
- University or college education with a business degree or diploma
- Practical experience working in an office environment

WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU
- Opportunity to be part of an exciting company helping entrepreneurship to thrive
- Work for a well-established and respected company within your community
- Competitive compensation package including Group benefits
- We provide ongoing development opportunities

The BSL is an equal opportunity employer and offers a salary level commensurate with responsibilities and experience. Please apply in confidence with a detailed resume by **Friday, May 17, 2013.** Applications can be e-mailed to bslft@niagara.com or delivered to:

Business Success & Loan Centre
ATTN: Human Resources Committee
45 Jarvis St., Fort Erie ON L2A 2S3

We thank all applicants for their interest, however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted. In addition, applicable testing may be required.

Garage Sales Flea Markets

Rain or Shine
POINT ABINO RD #514
(s. of hwy 3) Sat. May 4 à - ? Maytag upright freezer, Trailer hitch, 87 Ford Ranger for parts, 98 Sunfire as is, Antique comb. safe, Ent. unit, Locking storage cab. TVs, Animal cages and much more!

Automotive Services

WINDSHIELD CHIP Repair or Replaced, Oil & Filter change, most cars $19.95, Undercoating cars, $39.99 at WINDSHIELD KING 905-735-9999

Pet Services

Dog Training Classes starting soon! Info at **www.peppk9.com 905-933-8801**
Don't let your dog walk you!

Apartments

CRYSTAL Beach
Newly Renovated Apt.
750 sq ft. 2br upper
Walk to Lake $850 incl
ref required
lst & last. Brenda Wallace
905-894-4556

Apartments

RIDGEWAY area, one bedroom, non smoking, $675 including utilities, and AC available immediately. Seniors welcome. Call 289-969-7529.

ATTENTION!

Employment Wanted

LAWN CARE & ODD JOBS
Lawn cutting, gardening, dump runs, rototilling, hedge & small tree trimming, painting.
905-991-0669

APATISIWIN

Looking for work but not sure where to start?

If you are of Aboriginal ancestry & want to get your career moving consider attending the Apatisiwin Pre-Employment Workshops running from May 13 - 17, 2013 at the Fort Erie Native Friendship Centre. Classes will run daily from 1 pm- 4 pm.
Topics Include:
- Personal Assessments: What do I like & what am I good at?
- Career & Labour Market information: What is available & how do I find it?
- Planning for Success: Where do I go from here?

Get out, get motivated, & get on the right track!
These classes are free but seating is limited so register today by calling 905 871 8931 ext.239.

Careers

The **Fort Erie Times**
CARRIERS WANTED

Fort Erie
(Dufferin)

Thunder Bay
(Grove, Pleasant, Maple Leaf, Burleigh)

Thunder Bay
(Bethune, Cook)

Haven't Seen A Route Advertised For Your Area? Call & leave your name, addreas & telephone number & we will call you if one becomes available.
If interested call Petrina at
905-871-3100 ext. 201

Houses for Rent

3 bedroom house, close to hospital, large yard, $850 + util. First & lasts. 289-228-4268

Houses for Rent

Gorgeous 3 bedroom house, heet end hydro included. Finished basement, hardwood & granite throughout. Driveway. Gilmore Rd. area. 1-800-263-1313

Automotive Industry

SHOP HELP
Required Full & Part-time, Mechanical background en esset.
Reply by email to: johel_g@hotmail.com or call 416-808-2287

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milestones.sun@yourlifemoments.ca
Obituaries | In Memoriam | Thanks | Births | Celebrations | More

Birthdays

Birthdays

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Oh Lordy, Look Who's 40!
Happy Birthday
Carrie Chevalier
May 3, 2013

Coming Events

GROUP DOG OBEDIENCE CLASSES
Starting May 15th
Limited enrollment.
Contact
Judith Beam,
The Dog Lady
587-335-4468
The.dog.lady@hotmail.com
www.the-dog-lady.com

Coming Events

ROAST BEEF DINNER
St. John's Stevensville United Church
14789 Sodom Road, Snyder
Saturday, May 11th
Two Sittings: 5:00pm and 6:30pm
Adults $12 Children under 12 $5
For Tickets call 905-382-4645

Coming Events

Celebrate... on yourlifemoments.ca

Remember... on yourlifemoments.ca

Obituaries

FOURNIA, Margaret Winnifred, nee Riselay - Peacefully passed away on Friday, April 26, 2013, with her family at her side in her 84th year. Daughter of the late Cranmer Riselay and Lucy (Boag). A direct descendent of United Empire Loyalist Christian Riselay whose land grant opened the territory in the Bridgeburg vicinity of Fort Erie c. 1780. Family was Margaret's greatest joy. Devoted mother of Sandra Coombe, Allan and James. Cherished grandmother of Matthew Coombe. Predeceased by her loving husband D. Allan, beloved daughter Diane, dear brother Bill, brothers-in-law Doug, Don, and sisters-in-law Barb and Bert. Survived by nieces and nephews Sue and Bob, Glenn and Janice, Rob and Sue, Nancy and Doug, Barb and Rick, Debby and Ralph, Patsy and Yvon, David, and Gary. Also survived by son-in-law John Gress, sisters-in-law Laurine and Doreen. Heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Paul Spencer and his staff, and the staff at Douglas Memorial Hospital for their compassionate care. Cremation has taken place. A memorial service and fellowship gathering will be held at 1 pm on Saturday May 4, 2013 at the Fort Erie Legion, 130 Garrison Road. In lieu of flowers donations to the Royal Canadian Legion Frontier Branch or the charity of your choice would be appreciated by the family. Arrangements entrusted to **NIAGARA FUNERAL ALTERNATIVES,** 905-894-0120. St. Matthew 5:8: *Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.*

Niagara Funeral Alternatives Inc.
Cremations and Burials
Remembrance Takes Thought, Not Expense
Jerome J. O'Charchin, Funeral Director
905-894-0120
241 Ridge Road • Ridgeway • ON • L0S 1N0

LOBERG, Elizabeth "Judy" - Passed away peacefully at Lakeridge Health Bowmanville on Monday, April 22, 2013 in her 96th year. Judy, beloved wife of the late Ed Loberg. Amazing mother of Norm (Carol) Loberg, Ann (Jim) Hilborn and Lynda Loberg. Proud grandmother of Bryan Loberg, Liz (Steve) Burns, Chris (Paula) Hilborn, Michael (Anissa) Hilborn and great-grandmother of Hailey, Jake, Mackenzie, Adam, Ella and Luca. Judy was born in Vancouver BC and raised in Kamloops. She lived in Vancouver, Toronto, Montreal, Trier Germany and Ridgeway. She was a woman ahead of her time. During her lifetime she was involved in a variety of activities; Chair of Red Feather, President of K-Ladies, first women Chair of the Niagara Chamber of Commerce and first female Director of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce, Life Member of Zonta International, Director of the Niagara Rehab Centre and owner of The Elizabeth House of Fashion in Niagara Falls. She was a proud recipient of the Order of Niagara from the Anglican Church. During her 59 years of marriage to Eddie, when she wasn't travelling the world, she was busy tending to her gardens. A Celebration of Life will be held at **ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH**, 149 South Mill Street, Ridgeway, ON on Sunday, April 28, 2013 at 2 p.m. In lieu of flowers donations to All Saints Anglican Church or the charity of choice would be appreciated. Special thanks to the Nursing staff at Lakeridge Health Bowmanville and all the staff at Kingsway Arms for their loving care of our mom.
www.morrisfuneralchapel.ca

COLEMAN, Estelle - Passed away Sunday, April 28th, 2013 surrounded by her family at Maple Park Lodge in her 95th year. Daughter of the late Albert and Blanche Horsely and predeceased by a brother Albert, husband Gerald (1974) her sons in law Doug Campbell (2010) and Gerry Gentner (2012). Survived by daughters Deanie (Rich) Dube, Sally Gentner, Tish (Eugene) Cote, Judy Campbell and son Teeter Coleman. Lovingly remembered by grandchildren Kris Dube, Laura (Tim) DiGiulio, Matt (Katelyn) Gentner, Julie (Michael) Murphy, Paul (Sonia) Cote, Scott (Richard) Cote and Alex Campbell. Also survived by her six great-grandchildren, Jack, Molly, Ella JJ, Saffron and Piper. Mom enjoyed a long and successful career as head of Medical Records at Douglas Memorial hospital and was a founding member of the St. Michael's Catholic Women's League (CWL). While singing in the choir at St. Michael's church, baking, knitting, reading and Gilbert Perrault were very special to our Mother her greatest love was her family. We will miss Mom's smile, her kindness, her butter tarts and candlelight dinners. She is the inspiration behind our annual family golf tournament proudly called The Stellie Cup in its eleventh year. Cremation has taken place. Visitation at St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church Tuesday, April 30, 2013 at 10:00am to be followed by the Funeral Mass to be held at 11:00am. Arrangements entrusted to **BENNER FUNERAL SERVICES**. In lieu of flowers donations to the Fort Erie Literacy Council or St. Michael's building fund would be appreciated. The family would like to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to the outstanding staff at Maple Park Lodge for their excellent care and compassion. A special thanks also goes to Dr. Che.

BENNER, David C. - Surrounded by his family, David passed away peacefully at the Greater Niagara General Hospital on Thursday April 25th, 2013 at the age of 62. Best friend and husband of Carrie (nee Cardwell). Proud father of Jessica (Michael) Folino, Katie (1999) and Nick Benner. Loving grandfather of Katie and Stella. Devoted son of Phil and Ethel Benner, cherished brother of Brian (Sheree), Peter (Kathy) and Rebecca (Chris) Parton and nephew of Trudie Benner. Beloved son-in-law of Richard and Gloria Cardwell and brother-in-law of Carlee (Ched) Alderson. He will be greatly missed by his many nieces, nephews, cousins, extended family and friends. David's education, a BA from Wilfrid Laurier University along with a Bachelor and Masters of Education from Brock University provided the foundation for his lifelong career in Education. David was a tireless advocate for students in Special Education, continually fighting for their right to access the best possible learning experience. **BENNER FUNERAL SERVICES**, 1105 Benner Ave. Fort Erie entrusted with arrangements. The family will receive friends on Sunday from 5-9 pm. Funeral Services will be held in the Chapel on Monday afternoon at 1 o'clock. If so desired, donations to the Stair Climb for Children's Cancer or the ICU at Greater Niagara General Hospital would be appreciated by the family.
www.bennerfuneralservices.com

Memorial Services

CARL MARVIN MARTIN

A celebration of Carl's life will be held May 11, 2013 11am - 2 pm, at the Crystal Ridge Community Church, 241 Elmwood Rd., Crystal Beach. As an expression of sympathy, donations may be made to the Royal Canadian Legion, Br. 206 Tilbury.

Life...
...is a "work in progress."
We dream, we love, we grieve.
What do we leave behind?
— Memories —
We can help you translate your memories in stone, and...
...Quite Simply, only we can offer guaranteed quality through the strongest most comprehensive perpetual warranty offered in the industry today.
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Benner Funeral Services Inc.
Williams Funeral Services

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Prudential Real Estate Affiliates, Inc.

Town Centre Realty Inc., Brokerage

6041 ROSS AVE. NIAGARA FALLS

OPEN HOUSE
SUN. MAY 5TH, 2-4PM

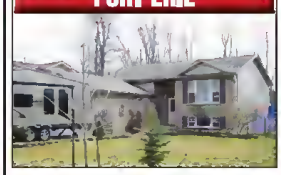
273 OXFORD AVE. CRYSTAL BEACH

OPEN HOUSE
SUN. MAY 5TH, 2-4PM

160 CHAMPLAIN DRIVE, FORT ERIE

OPEN HOUSE
SUN. MAY 5TH, 2-4PM

FORT ERIE



$254,500
Very attractive, well maintained home
Gorgeous park-like rear yard
MARY ELLEN WINGER**1970 MLS N30017475

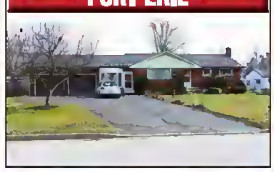
CRYSTAL BEACH

$124,900
2 bedroom cottage in a nice area.
Only 200 steps from beautiful sand beach
JOE BARKER**1773 MLS N20145122

ST. CATHARINES

$174,000
Spacious 3 bedroom, 2 storey character home.
Close to downtown core.
BRIDE HAMLYN*1933 MLS N30011650

FORT ERIE



$235,000
Well maintained 3 bdrm. bungalow
Large lot, close to Niagara Pkwy.
DAWN KENDRICK*1969 MLS N30017420

CRYSTAL BEACH

$214,900
Open concept bungalow on nice lot
Near beautiful beach on Lake Erie
MARGE OTT**1976 MLS N30018627

RIDGEWAY

$181,900
Included in the price: washer, dryer, fridge
stove, microwave, snowblower & riding mower
DAWN KENDRICK*1072 MLS N30005000

STEVENSVILLE

$399,900
Beautiful unobstructed view of Niagara River.
3+1 bedroom home with lots of extras
MARGE OTT**1925 MLS 30017034

RIDGEWAY

$369,900
Custom built log home. Open concept
with quality wood finishes throughout.
MARY ELLEN WINGER**1974 MLS N30018366

STEVENSVILLE

$56,900
Great Black Creek fully
serviced building lot.
Town has stated this lot
can be severed into 2 lots
PAM THOMAS*1963
N30015902

RIDGEWAY

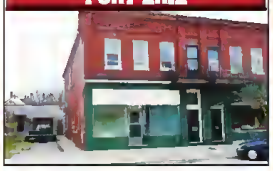
$379,000
Lovely country home on privare 5+
acres. A nature lovers dream.
MARGE OTT** 1916 MLS N30009019

FEATURED HOME

427 NIAGARA BLVD. FORT ERIE

Beautiful home with exceptional garage
Stunning riverview out your front window
PAMELA THOMAS*1854 MLS N30003715

FORT ERIE



$185,000
Solid investment
400sqft storefront + 3 apartments
JOE BARKER**1838 N30002506

RIDGEWAY BUILDING LOTS

Northshore Drive
Bethune Avenue
Young Avenue
Hyman Avenue
Pick your plan & builder
DAWN KENDRICK
& JOE BARKER

FORT ERIE

$179,000
Walk to the Fort and Niagara River
Super bungalow with garage.
MARGE OTT** 1960 MLSN300148B3

SALES TEAM

Mary Ellen Winger
Broker/Manager

Joe Barker
Broker

Marge Ott
Broker

Pamela Thomas
Salesperson

Dawn Kendrick
Salesperson

Bride Hamlyn
Salesperson

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Giving kids a sporting chance

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PRO M-SERIES

Takes your charcoal grilling to the next level by creating a convection-like environment for superior temperature control.

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Small space cooking refined. Napoleon® grills stand up to the harshest environments.

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DUAL FUEL GRILL

Double your BBQ enjoyment with a 3 burner gas grill and charcoal grill in one

Coleman

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INFRARED PRO 900

GOURMET INFRARED PRO 900 Cuisinart

Bring the excellence you expect from Cuisinart® outdoors with one of our exclusive BBQ grills

Cuisinart

#85-8060

More Styles Available. See Store for Details.

LAWN MOWERS AND TRACTORS

Troy-Bilt 160cc / 21-in 3-in-1 Self-Propelled Lawn Mower

4 year warranty

#60-1633-4

Yardworks 173cc / 21-in Self-Propelled 3-in-1 Gas Lawn Mower

4 year warranty

#60-1609-4

GreenWorks 13 A 21-in Electric Lawn Mowe

4 year warranty

#60-1719-2

Troy-Bilt 11.5HP 30-in Neighbourhood Rider

TROY-BILT

4 year warranty

#60-1815

Yardworks 19.5 HP 42-in Lawn Tractor

YARDWORKS

2 year warranty

#60-1839

Troy-Bilt Lawn Tractor, 24 HP

TROY-BILT

4 year warranty

#60-1880

More Styles Available. See Store for Details.

GLENDALE AVE	WELLAND AVE.	MCLEOD RD.	LOUTH ST.	MONTROSE RD.	GARRISON RD.	WEST SIDE DR.	PRIMEWAY DRIVE
ST. CATHARINES	ST. CATHARINES	NIAGARA FALLS	ST. CATHARINES	NIAGARA FALLS	FORT ERIE	PORT COLBORNE	WELLAND
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JUMPSTART YOUR BACKYARD

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LUCA COLLECTION GAZEBO

CRAWFORD COLLECTION GAZEBO

HAVANA COLLECTION GAZEBO

ESSEX COLLECTION GAZEBO

FOR LIVING GRILL GAZEBO

CLARKSON COLLECTION GAZEBO, 10' X 10'

More Styles Available. See Store for Details.

PATIO SETS

MONTEREY COLLECTIONS

ABERDEEN COLLECTION

CABANA COLLECTION

PIERCE COLLECTION

SUTTON COLLECTION

LUCA COLLECTION

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ST. CATHARINES	ST. CATHARINES	NIAGARA FALLS	ST. CATHARINES	NIAGARA FALLS	FORT ERIE	PORT COLBORNE	WELLAND
905 227-7481	905-688-0488	905 358-0161	905 692-9275	905 354-3849	905 871-1564	905-935-1155	905-732-7501